

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 DRC-01 /106 W

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P R 090932Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5797

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, KS, JA PFOR

SUBJECT: ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS -- MEDIA AND PUBLIC  
RESPONSE

REF: SEOUL 5875

1. LOCAL KOREAN MEDIA HAS FEATURED VOLUMINOUS, AT TIMES VIRULENT, ANTI-JAPANESE STORIES OVER WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND CONTINUING THROUGH MONDAY. WHILE MUCH OF FOCUS IS ON DEMONSTRATIONS THEMSELVES, STORIES REPLAY GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PARTY RESPONSES TO JAPANESE CURRENT STANCE ON AUGUST 15 INCIDENT AS WELL AS LAYMEN AND STUDENT COMMENT ON JAPANESE ALLEGED "ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM." PRESS REPORTED KOREAN INTERNATIONAL LAW SCHOLARS' OPINION THAT JAPAN HAS MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT THOROUGHLY. EVEN CASE OF JAPANESE HOUSEWIFE MURDERED BY KOREAN WOMAN IN DOMESTIC TRANGLE HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED TO DEMONSTRATE THE "FOXY AND INSOLENT NATURE" OF "GOLD-LOVING" JAPANESE.

2. REPORTING ALSO CENTERS AROUND SPECULATION THAT  
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PRIME MINISTER TANAKA IS EXPECTED TO SEND REPLY BY

SEPTEMBER 11 TO ROK DEMANDS FOR TIGHTER CONTROL OF CHOSEN SOREN AND FULLER COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATION OF MUN SE-KWANG CASE. PRESS NOTES FUTURE IMPROVEMENT OR DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES SHOULD BECOME EVIDENT AFTER RECEIPT OF TANAKA ANSWER. MEDIA ALSO CARRIED AMBASSADOR USHI-ROKU'S REMARKS IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SITUATION WAS SO SERIOUS ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS COULD DETERIORATE TO POINT OF BREAK-DOWN.

3. OPPOSITION NDP LEADERS IN CAUCUS TASKED KIM HYONG-IL AND FOUR OTHER PARTY MEMBERS TO DRAFT PARTY STATEMENT ON ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. PARTY WILL CAUCUS AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 10 TO CONSIDER STATEMENT.

4. AT YONGNAK CHURCH, PRESS ESTIMATED 2,000 CHRISTIANS HELD SPECIAL MEETING IN WHICH THEY PRAYED FOR NATIONAL LEADERS AND FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS. "MAN ON STREET" SURVEYS IN PRESS OF "RANDOMLY SELECTED" KOREANS SHOWED ALMOST UNIVERSAL DISAPPROVAL OF JAPANESE ATTITUDES IN CURRENT SITUATION WITH REPEATED REFERENCE TO "DEPLORABLE" COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES OF JAPANESE.

5. COMMENT: MEDIA HANDLING OF ANTI-JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS IS UNDOUBTEDLY GOVERNMENT INSPIRED. THE MEDIA EXPLOITATION IS ONLY ONE OF VARIOUS MEANS GOVERNMENT USING TO INCITE WIDE-SPREAD ANTI-JAPANESE RESENTMENT. SO FAR MANY OF EMBASSY CONTACTS OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT REMAIN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATION IN THE ROK/JAPANESE RELATIONSHIPS THAN IN ENGAGING IN ANTI-JAPANESE COMMENTS. AT SAME TIME SOME OF OUR CONTACTS NOTE THAT GOVERNMENT'S BARRAGE OF ANTI-JAPANESE PROPAGANDA IS HAVING AN EFFECT ON THE GENERAL PUBLIC MOOD AND THAT THERE IS A WORSENING OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES DIRECTED AGAINST THE JAPANESE.  
ERICSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ASSASSINATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SEOUL05921  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740249-1025  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SEOUL 5875  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS -- MEDIA AND PUBLIC RESPONSE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, KS, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005